

Exile Chiefs Expected to Land in Cuba

Wednesday Seen
as Target Date for
Guerrilla Assault

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MIAMI — Landings in Cuba by two Cuban exile leaders as a small beginning for a long-range campaign of sabotage and guerrilla warfare appeared imminent Sunday.

Authoritative sources said both Manuel Ray, former member of Cuban Premier Fidel Castro's cabinet, and Maj. Eloy Gutierrez Menoyo, who fought in the Castro revolution, are expected to be in Cuba by Wednesday. That is Cuba's independence anniversary. Ray promised a year ago he would be back in Cuba fighting by that day.

Ray, head of the Revolutionary Junta (JURE), and Menoyo, military leader of a coalition of three exile organizations, are operating independently.

Letdown Possible

While the potential significance—especially from a psychological standpoint—of the Ray and Menoyo effort are not to be underestimated, Miami's large exile community may be working itself up to the tragic letdown.

Not since the Cuban missile crisis of October, 1962, when Cubans had visions of American troops going to

war against Castro, 100,000 exiles in Miami in such ferment.

It already is clear that if the undertakings by Ray, Menoyo and possibly others fail to shake Castro's hold on the island, there will be crushing disappointment among exiles.

Bitter recrimination — much of it directed at the United States — will follow, as it has on other occasions when Cubans thought they had reason to believe liberation of their homeland was at hand.

Rumors Abound

Miami is inundated with rumors — rumors of U-2 planes being shot down over Cuba, of top Castro officials defecting, of a massive clandestine operation by the Central Intelligence Agency in Cuba and many more.

"If Ray and Menoyo do get in—and they may already be there," one informed source said, "that will just be the start of a long story, if they stay alive."

Ray, particularly, has stressed that his plans are long-range. He is expected to infiltrate with a small group and concentrate on organizing underground units as well as some sabotage.

Ray, the 39-year-old father of five and a construction engineer, was minister of public works in Castro's first cabinet. He broke in late 1959 after the revolution turned Communist.

Menoyo, 30, and a bachelor, is an experienced guerrilla fighter. In the revolution against Fulgencio Batista, Menoyo fought in the Escambray Mountains while Castro operated in the Sierra Maestra.

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Ray, who claims still to have contact with remnants of the underground organization he once headed in Cuba, hopes his resistance movement will snowball into open fighting and possibly a coup.

Some informed sources doubt there are any organized opposition units of any significance left inside Cuba.

But they concede the prospect of large-scale defections from Castro's army and civilian bureaucracy if Ray and Menoyo can function successfully in Cuba for at least two or three weeks.

"These people may be ripe," a source said, "but they have to be sure there's a handle to hold on to before they risk their lives. They have to be shown a glimmer of hope."

"In any case, it will be a long pull. Castro, despite all his difficulties in managing the economy, still is running a pretty tight police state."

A third Cuban exile group, the Movement for Revolutionary Recovery, may also be active in the coming days. That group, led by Manuel Artimo, 32-year-old political head of the brigade that attempted the Bay of Pigs invasion in 1961, has claimed credit for a hit-and-run raid on a Cuban port mill last Wednesday.

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